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Arrigoni, Holly

From: Fuentes, Rene
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 10:04 AM
To: Arrigoni, Holly
Cc: Fuentes, Rene; Fleming, Sheila
Subject: Some historical notes for Univar site Portland OR

Historical summary for Univar aka Van Waters & Rogers (Spokane WA and Portland OR)

Suddenly, prior to a long awaited planned site visit to the Portland facility, together with the state ODEQ, to discuss the results of a stormwater study, the meeting was cancelled on 23 October 2012 by Univar. On 24 October 2012 Holly Arrigoni (RCRA Project Manager) and I had a call with Dave Gosen, Univar Director of Remediation, George Sylvester Univar project manager for many years, and with Erik Ipsen (and Matthew Mudge ?) of ERM. We were informed that PES, the consulting group that had been working on this site since the 1990s, under different consulting names, is no longer working for Univar. No clear reasons were given for that action. From that day on we were told at the meeting that all communication in the future should be through Univar until further notice.

On November 13, 2012 Holly and I had a meeting at EPA with Dave Gosen, Univar Director of Remediation, George Sylvester Univar project manager for many years, and with Erik Ipsen and Matthew Mudge of ERM. In addition we had another ERM member (from Denver?) call in to the meeting. Discussed generally where all the planned documents were at, and some general schedules.

Future meetings with EPA were not planned since both Holly's calendar and projects, and mine were booked for the foreseeable future due to imminent field work for both of us, which we explained to those present.

On Friday January 18, 2013 I received a call from Holly that she had been informed that George Sylvester was retiring on that day and would no longer be involved with the Univar project.

At the November meeting with Univar we were told that ERM had been catching up with all the work that was under way at Univar site, and that we should not have any breaks in pace. However, as of now I have not seen any new reports or have had communication from Univar or ERM.

My concern is that now that we have lost the entire PES historical experience, and George's long term management perspective and site experience, and the expected changes in team dynamics and EPA relationship, that much will be lost in this project. I personally began to work on the two Van Waters & Rogers (Spokane and Portland facilities) in late 1987 when the company approached EPA under a RCRA requirement. George Sylvester was a project manager at the site by the late 1980s, and some of the personnel from PES (under that company or a different group, but generally many of the same people) began working at the facility in the mid 1990s. It is unclear how we can quickly rebuild the team dynamics and the trust between Univar to maintain momentum at this time when the remedial work will be decided.

Also attached is an ad from the company in the 1990's which indicated their philosophy related to hazardous waste remediation work.



VW&R Chemical
Waste Ad 1995.jp...

FILE COPY

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